

SECRET

1 November 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Contact With AECASSOWARY-2, AECASSOWARY-3, AECASSOWARY-4,
and AECASSOWARY-15 on 23 October 1957

1. Contact with AECASSOWARY-2, AECASSOWARY-3, AECASSOWARY-4, and AECASSOWARY-15 was made by [] and [] of SR/3, and [] and [] of SR/7/DOB at AECASSOWARY-15's home, 5143 Cathedral Avenue on 23 October 1957. The meeting lasted from 1300 hours until 1630 hours and matters dealing with FI matters and Project AERODYNAMIC were discussed.

2. FI Aspects - [] began with a brief introduction about the present Agency interest in sending a man into the Ukraine to learn what underground elements remain and, if possible, attempting to make contact with them. He stated that instead of making the initial contact by a REDSOX-type agent, it might be better to send a "legal traveler" who could make the first overtures. This could later be followed by a REDSOX-type operation to follow up any leads the "legal traveler" may have obtained.

AECASSOWARY-2 asked what was meant by "legal traveler" and it was explained to him that this meant any person traveling with legal documents; e.g., a tourist, businessman, or professor traveling to the Soviet Union. He also inquired whether there would be any danger to this man. It was stated that this possibility always existed but that with careful training and extreme caution, he would at least be able to relay a message to some trusted individual who could then make the actual contact with the underground elements.

Since the underground would be less suspicious of a "legal traveler" than a REDSOX-type agent, the problem of establishing his bona fides by the underground would not be as great, although it would still exist. Various means of identification and proof of bona fides were discussed, including utilizing pre-arranged sentences beamed over VOA. This was left for future operational planning, should such a project be initiated.

It was agreed by the AECASSOWARIES that if nothing more was accomplished in the first mission than to alert the remaining underground members that the foreign representation of the UHVR was attempting to re-establish contact with them, it would already be a valuable asset. The next contact (be he another "legal traveler" or a REDSOX-type agent) would have less trouble in making actual contact with the underground members.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3020
VAZIRWAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

3. AECASSOWARY-2/

SECRET

3. AECASSOWARY-2 was asked whether he has knowledge of any people in the Soviet Ukraine who could be contacted by such a "legal traveler" and who could be relied upon to transmit a message from AECASSOWARY-2 to the underground. He stated that he knew several and gave the following as examples:

IRENA WELDE

a. Identity A - A Ukrainian novelist from Western Ukraine, who had been married to an engineer active in the underground, later killed by the Nazis. She has remained in Lviv after her husband's death and has become an important literary figure. Her sister-in-law lives in Trenton, N. J. and corresponds with her. AECASSOWARY-2 believes that she still has ties with the underground. A recent contact (Polish) of AECASSOWARY-2 visited Lviv and talked to her. He was told that the best thing the Ukrainians in the West can do is to attack her in their press in order to ward off Soviet suspicions regarding her loyalty. She gave him the name of a woman in Krynów to whom books and materials could be sent and to whom she sends Soviet publications which are then relayed to Trenton, N. J;

b. Identity B - A Ukrainian professor at the Lviv Polytechnical Institute who is a close friend of AECASSOWARY-2. The professor's daughter was a former member of the OUN and is now imprisoned in Siberia for underground activities. AECASSOWARY-2 has already sent him two packages under the AECUPBOARD program and believes that he should have some knowledge or contact with underground personalities.

4. The AECASSOWARIES were asked which method (REDSOX or "legal traveler") they felt would present the better opportunity to make initial contact with the underground. They all agreed that at first the "legal traveler" method was preferable. AECASSOWARY-4 outlined their views as follows:

a. Make initial contact through "legal traveler" to alert the underground that we are trying to reach them;

b. Possibly send several other "legal travelers" to give further proof to the underground that we are attempting to make contact;

c. The underground would then start making their own preparations for establishing contact with our man, when and if he arrives in the Soviet Ukraine;

d. At the same time, we should try to screen all Ukrainians from the United States and Canada who are traveling for personal

reasons to the/

SECRET

- 3 -

reasons to the Soviet Ukraine. The purpose of this is to line up any possible individuals to:

(1) Obtain as much information as possible on actual conditions inside the Soviet Ukraine;

(2) Give the traveler names of supposed friends or relatives in villages or cities where they plan to visit, and ask him to find out whether they are still there. In effect, the names would be of former OUN members who may still be active in the underground;

(3) Ask some of the travelers to relay letters to supposed friends or relatives in the villages or cities where they plan to visit. In reality these letters would contain open-code statements which former members of the underground would recognize and possibly respond to;

(4) AECASSOWARY-2 stated that he had talked to a Canadian-Ukrainian early this year who had visited the Soviet Ukraine in late 1956. The man was able to visit relatives in his village and learned about the death of three former OUN members. AECASSOWARY-2 stated that more contacts of this sort would be very valuable for verifying facts and learning more about former OUN members. (Case Officer Comment: A copy of AECASSOWARY-2's report on the trip of the Canadian-Ukrainian is included as Attachment 1.)

e. After making initial contact with the underground, a REDSOX-type agent could be sent in to make the actual direct contact and possibly return with some underground member, knowledgeable on the present situation of members of the underground and what type of aid we should give them.

5. AECASSOWARY-3 stated that he is in contact with some Polish-Basilian fathers who recently made an extensive trip through the Soviet Ukraine, visiting the areas where Basilian churches had once existed. He suggested that groups of this type could also be utilized for obtaining information on the present situation in the Ukraine, as well as for checking the present location of certain people, formerly with the underground, who may still be knowledgeable on underground activities. He also stated that a "legal traveler" could speak to priests in the Soviet Ukraine (some of whom are former friends of AECASSOWARY-3) and obtain information in this manner, since priests are often quite knowledgeable on such matters.

6. AECASSOWARY-2/

SECRET

SECRET

- 4 -

6. AECASSOWARY-2 was instructed to provide us with the names of some Ukrainian-Americans who might be utilized for the "legal traveler" operation. Since clearances and operational training would take considerable time, it was agreed that it was imperative to have some candidates at the earliest possible date. It was suggested that the candidate be an older man with little or no political emigre affiliations, since the Soviets would be more likely to suspect a young man or one active in the emigration. AECASSOWARY-2 asked whether the candidate would have to be from the United States necessarily. It was agreed that he could be from Canada, South America, or any of the Western European countries, except West Germany, which was ruled out because of the general low standard of living of Ukrainian emigres. Thus, it would be difficult to explain how the man was able to finance the trip. Australia was also ruled out for operational reasons.

7. PP Aspects:

a. After the discussion on FI matters, [] and the undersigned met with AECASSOWARY-2 and AECASSOWARY-3 for further discussion regarding Project AERODYNAMIC matters;

b. [] gave an initial summary of the AERODYNAMIC budget as it had been presented to AECASSOWARY-2 last summer. He stated that, because of the over-all pressure for budget cuts, it would be impossible to count on any additional monies for the Fiscal Year 1958. However, he stated that some monies (approximately []) had been designated as a Developmental Fund and that these monies could be utilized for special projects that are deemed of sufficient importance PP-wise. However, since this fund is limited it would not do to expend it in the first three months and then have nothing for a later time when some important matter should develop. He further stated that as soon as we received estimates from AECASSOWARY-2 on the book project we would allocate some of the Developmental Fund monies;

c. AECASSOWARY-2 then inquired about the possibility of obtaining private support as had been promised by [] [] stated that one man had been contacted (SEMENENKO) but that until a better cover arrangement was set up no further contacts would be made. He also stated that we are now obtaining a cleared American lawyer to be used as the ostensible source of all funds channeled to AEBEEHIVE. After the lawyer is obtained, further attempts to obtain private support could be initiated. He also asked whether it would not be possible to have AECASSOWARY-2 give us a list of Ukrainian-Americans who might be approached. The possibility

of setting up/

SECRET

SECRET

- 5 -

of setting up a fund-raising campaign, either via letters or in person, was also discussed. AECASSOWARY-2 stated that this was possible but difficult because of the semi-covert activities of AEBEEHIVE. He also stated that the Ukrainians already have a Ukrainian National Fund which collects money each year, and that other campaigns would have less chance of success;

d. AECASSOWARY-3 stated that he was now better informed on the Headquarters problems regarding the AERODYNAMIC budget cut and felt that the Field operations would be able to continue in spite of the limited monies. He also stated that he felt it was important to continue the Prolog magazine, since it was the only overt activity that the AEBEEHIVE group could point to. He said that this problem is not as difficult in the Field, as the newspapers serve as excellent cover for operational activities. Here in New York, it was more difficult for the members who work for AEBEEHIVE since they work primarily on covert or semi-covert activities. For this reason, AECASSOWARY-3 believes that the Prolog magazine is a useful project for cover purposes, as well as for its PP value. AECASSOWARY-3 asked whether in certain cases additional funds might be allocated for the Field for special projects that come up. He was told that in such events he should inform AECASSOWARY-2 and the Field case officer, and we would do everything we could to help him out with money in our present budget;

e. The final point of business was the possibility of establishing Ukrainian language broadcasts on Formosa. AECASSOWARY-2 outlined the contact (indirect) that he has with one of the members of the ABN mission now broadcasting over ChiNat facilities. This member has sent him two scripts of recent broadcasts and asked for aid, as far as PP materials were concerned, for future broadcasts;

AECASSOWARY-2 stated that there were about 8,000,000 Ukrainians in Siberia, including many former underground members and many Ukrainian political and cultural leaders. He stated that there is no Ukrainian cultural possibilities for these people and that they are under pressure of intense Russification;

[] stated that we would like to check on the content of the ABN broadcasts and investigate whether it was possible for the ABN broadcasts to reach Siberia, before we made any decision on this matter;

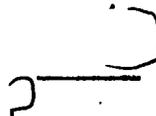
f. The undersigned/

SECRET

SECRET

- 6 -

f. The undersigned relayed \$730.91 to AECASSOWARY-2 in payment of AECASSOWARY-3's round-trip ticket and for transportation to Washington twice for operational conferences.


SR/3/CE 

SECRET